

Message Text

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47

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 DRC-01 /096 W

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P 291740Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY LIMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9492

INFO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LA PAZ PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY QUITO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ASUNCION PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BOGOTA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY CARACAS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO PRIORITY

USCINCSO FOR POLAD PRIORITY

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 LIMA 2488

EO 11652 N/A

TAGS: MARR, PFOR, CI, BL, PE

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT VELASCO DISCUSSES RELATIONS
WITH BOLIVIA AND CHILE

REF: LIMA 2392

1. SUMMARY: QUESTIONS ABOUT BOLIVIA, CHILE AND PERU
DOMINATED YESTERDAY'S PRESIDENTIAL PRESS CONFERENCE.
VELASCO DENIED STRONGLY THAT ANY FORM OF CONFLICT
EXISTED BETWEEN PERU AND CHILE. AFTER THE PRESS
CONFERENCE, THE PRESIDENCY ISSUED A FORMAL STATEMENT
REITERATING PERU'S PEACEFUL POLICIES AND REJECTING THE
POSSIBILITY OF A CLASH WITH CHILE. VELASCO ALSO
DISMISSED THE POSSIBILITY OF BOLIVIA'S BEING GRANTED
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A CORRIDOR TO THE SEA THROUGH ARICA STATING THAT WHAT

BOLIVIA WANTED WAS TO OBTAIN SUCH ACCESS THROUGH ITS FORMER TERRITORIES,(I.E., ANTOFAGASTA). HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE PUBLISHED OFFICIAL TRANSCRIPT FOLLOW. END SUMMARY.

2. QUESTIONED ABOUT PERU'S POLICY TOWARD BOLIVIAN ACCESS TO THE SEA, VELASCO REPLIED THAT PERU'S POSITION HAS NOT CHANGED ONE BIT. HE SAID THAT THE TREATY OF 1929 SHOULD BE RESPECTED. THAT IS, CHILE COULD NOT OFFER BOLIVIA PASSAGE TO THE SEA THROUGH FORMER PERUVIAN TERRITORIES UNLESS PERU CONSENTED. AND NO PERUVIAN, VELASCO SAID, IS IN FAVOR OF GRANTING BOLIVIA PASSAGE THROUGH ARICA.

3. VELASCO WAS THEN ASKED WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF CHILE PROPOSED GIVING BOLIVIA A PASSAGE THROUGH ARICA. THE PRESIDENT REPLIED THAT HE DID NOT THINK THAT BOLIVIA WOULD ACCEPT SUCH A PROPOSAL. WHAT BOLIVIA WANTS, VELASCO SAID, IS TO OBTAIN ACCESS TO THE SEA THROUGH ITS FORMER TERRITORIES. THIS WAS THE SENSE OF MY CONVERSATIONS WITH PRESIDENT BANZER IN JULY 1973, VELASCO SAID. (ACCORDING TO EL COMERCIO, VELASCO ADDED THAT BOLIVIA WOULD NOT ACCEPT PASSAGE THROUGH FORMER PERUVIAN TERRITORY BECAUSE THIS WOULD BE A SOURCE OF CONFLICT BETWEEN FUTURE BOLIVIANS AND PERUVIANS.)

4. ASKED WHETHER BOLIVIA'S PASSAGE COULD BE RAISED IN ANDEAN PACT FORUMS, VELASCO REPLIED THAT BOLIVIA WAS FREE TO RAISE THE SUBJECT WHERE THAT COUNTRY FEELS IT IS PRUDENT TO TAKE IT. (OJO REPORTS THAT VELASCO SAID THAT HE HOPED THAT THE BOLIVIANS WOULD RAISE THIS SUBJECT IN ANDEAN FORUMS BECAUSE THEY HAVE A RIGHT TO HAVE AN OUTLET TO THE SEA AND THERE ARE MANY POINTS OF VIEW WHICH SHOULD BE DISCUSSED OPENLY.)

5. VELASCO DENIED THAT PERU WAS MOVING AN ARMORED DIVISION TO THE SOUTH, NOTING THAT IT WAS SIMPLY THE ARMORED SCHOOL WITH ITS INSTRUCTORS AND TEACHING MATERIAL. THAT IS VERY DIFFERENT FROM AN ARMORED UNCLASSIFIED

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DIVISION, VELASCO SAID.

6. ONE VISITING JOURNALIST QUESTIONED VELASCO PERSISTENTLY ABOUT PERU'S POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY. THE PRESIDENT WAS ASKED ABOUT THE BRAZIL, CHILE, BOLIVIA AXIS AND WHETHER THEIR CONCURRENT POSITIONS ON BOLIVIA'S ACCESS TO THE SEA DID NOT PRESENT A SORT OF DIPLOMATIC TRAP FOR PERU. VELASCO REPLIED THAT PERU

WAS NOT GOING TO GIVE UP AN INCH OF ITS TERRITORY.
HE ADDED THAT HE DID NOT CARE WHAT TYPE OF GOVERNMENT
NEIGHBORING OR NON-NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES HAD; THEY
COULD BE COMMUNIST, CAPITALIST OR ANY COLOR. HE
SAID THAT PERU WAS NOT MARXIST BUT THAT IT WOULD NOT
ADOPT ANTI PHILOSOPHIES BECAUSE SUCH POSITIONS WERE
STERILE.

7. AFTER SEVERAL QUESTIONS, VELASCO REPORTEDLY ASKED
THE VISITING JOURNALIST WHETHER HE WAS BRAZILIAN. HE
REPLIED THAT HE WORKED FOR A BRAZILIAN MAGAZINE. THE
PRESIDENT THEN COMPLAINED ABOUT ALLEGEDLY FALSE
DECLARATIONS ATTRIBUTED TO PERU'S FOREIGN MINISTER BY
O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO. THE PRESIDENT SAID THAT HE DID
NOT WANT TO THINK THAT FOREIGN INTERESTS HAD REACHED
THE STAGE WHERE THEY WERE INVENTING DECLARATIONS. THE
VISITING JOURNALIST REPLIED THAT SUCH NEWS (UNSPECIFIED)
WAS BEING PUBLISHED THROUGHOUT LATIN AMERICA. "WHY?"
HE ASKED VELASCO. THE PRESIDENT REPLIED THAT THERE
WERE LATIN AMERICAN NEWSPAPERS THAT THOUGHT DIFFERENTLY
THAN THE PERUVIANS AND SECONDLY, THAT FOREIGN GROUPS
WERE ORCHESTRATING A CAMPAIGN AGAINST PERU. THE
NEWSMAN PERSEVERED ASKING WHO ORCHESTRATED. "YOU
KNOW MORE ABOUT THAT THAN I DO," VELASCO REPLIED.

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NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

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FM AMEMBASSY LIMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9493

INFO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA PRIORITY

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8. IN A TEN-POINT COMMUNIQUE ISSUED BY THE PRESIDENCY AFTER THE PRESS CONFERENCE, PRESIDENT VELASCO REAFFIRMED PERU'S POLICY OF NON-INTERVENTION, INDEPENDENCE FROM INTERNATIONAL POWER CENTERS IN FOREIGN AFFAIRS, PEACEFUL RELATIONS WITH ALL AND EMPHASIS ON DEVELOPMENT. THE COMMUNIQUE ADDED THAT "PERU HAS NO FRONTIER PROBLEMS WITH ITS NEIGHBORS, WHICH IT CONSIDERS BROTHER NATIONS IN THE CONCERT OF LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES...BETWEEN PERU AND CHILE THERE IS NO CONFLICT WHATSOEVER...PERU REJECTS THE POSSIBILITY OF CONFRONTATION WITH CHILE...AS A RESULT PERU DENOUNCES THE CAMPAIGN THAT IT VAINLY SEEKING CONFLICT BETWEEN THE TWO BROTHER NATIONS." THE FINAL POINT EXPRESSES SATISFACTION WITH RECENT DECLARATIONS BY THE CHILEAN FOREIGN MINISTER ABOUT BILATERAL RELATIONS.

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9. DURING THE PRESS CONFERENCE, ACCORDING TO EL COMERCIO, VELASCO SAID THAT THE CHILEAN AMBASSADOR TO PERU, GENERAL ERRAZURIZ, WAS A FRIEND OF HIS, AND THAT PERU'S NEW AMBASSADOR, GENERAL VICTOR ODICIO, WAS A GOOD FRIEND OF CHILE'S MILITARY LEADERS.
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